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November 19, 2003

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**Technology Center 2600** 

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No. 09/527,920; Filed: March 17, 2000

For: Method, System, and Computer Program Product for Managing

**Routing Servers and Services** 

Inventors:

Scott et al.

Our Ref:

1848.0060003

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Reply to Restriction Requirement; and
- 2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Michael D. Specht

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 54,463

MVM/MDS:mlb Enclosures

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Scott et al.

Appl. No. 09/527,920

Filed: March 17, 2000

For:

Method, System, and

Computer Program Product for Managing Routing Servers

and Services

Confirmation No. 3032

Art Unit: 2665

Examiner: Nguyen, Phuongchau BA

Atty. Docket: 1848.0060003

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Technology Center 2600

## **Reply to Restriction Requirement**

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated **September 25, 2003**, requesting an election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute the invention of Invention Group II, represented by claims 6-19, 22-24, 25-30, 33-34, 40-52, 56-58, 59-64, 67-68, 74-87, 90-92, 93-98, 101-105. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

Separate prosecution of Invention Groups I, II, III and IV as characterized by the Examiner, would be burdensome and create unnecessary expense. Furthermore, the prior art to be searched by the Examiner is likely to be substantially the same for all Invention Groups, given the relationship to routing servers of each of the Invention Groups. As a result, redundant efforts associated with review, analysis, and responses

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related to prior art that will likely overlap in the prosecution of the Invention Groups will impose significant additional expense to the Applicants and unnecessarily burden the United States Patent and Trademark Office. For these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and consideration and allowance of

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Michael D. Specht Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 54,463

Date: 11/19/03

all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

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